

**Public Briefing Paper for  
Forest Management Certification  
Assessment of  
Tennessee Division of Forestry  
in Nashville, TN, USA  
September 11, 2008**

**Introduction** - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting a forest management/chain of custody certification assessment of Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF). TDF was originally certified in 2002 (SW-FM/COC-000-213). TDF is a public natural resource agency that manages approximately 168,000 acres that is being included in this assessment. The onsite assessment will take place from October 12 -15, 2009.

**Scope of the Certification Assessment** – The forest management certification assessment will evaluate the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by TDF, using the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Southeastern Standard v10.0. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC US web site (at [http://www.fscus.org/standards\\_criteria/](http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/)) or contact SmartWood directly by telephone, fax or email as listed below. SmartWood is accredited by the FSC and the assessment process used for the evaluation of TDF will follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

**Assessment Team Composition** – The re-assessment will be conducted by: John Hodges, Lead auditor/Forester. John's undergraduate degree is in forest management and his graduate degrees are in ecology and plant physiology. He has worked for the U.S. Forest Service in both management and research, taught at Mississippi State University for 23 years, and served as VP and Land Manager for Anderson-Tully Company. He has authored or co-authored more than 150 scientific or technical publications and is a Fellow in the Society of American Foresters. He has served on numerous FM and RM assessment teams as team leader and team member and has done dozens of COC assessments and audits.

Stephen C. Grado, Ph.D. Socio-Economist. Professor, Mississippi State University Department of Forestry; Society of American Foresters Certified Forester and Certified Forest Auditor. Dr. Grado has served as social assessor on ten SmartWood pre-assessments and assessments, as an auditor for innumerable forest management and chain-of-custody audits/assessments, and has also served as a peer reviewer of FSC certification reports. He once served as a member of a forest project monitoring team auditing under SFI standards.

C. Reed Rossell, Jr., Ecologist. A.A.S in Wildlife, Hocking Technical College; B.S. in Wildlife Ecology & Management, West Virginia University; M.S. in Wildlife Ecology, University of New Hampshire. Reed has worked in the field of wildlife ecology, management, and research for 19 years. He is a certified Wildlife Biologist and author or co-author on 23 peer-reviewed articles on wildlife ecology and management. Reed is an independent contract biologist and a research associate in the Department of Environmental Studies at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. He has worked as an FSC Forest Management auditor (ecologist) since 2001. He completed the FSC Lead

Auditor Training in 2008. Reed has participated in 17 Forest Management certification assessments and audits throughout the eastern United States and Lake States region.

**Assessment Steps and Schedule** – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Assessment organization – The SmartWood assessment team will arrive at on October 12, 2009.
- ◆ Field assessments – The assessment team will visit sites managed by TDF from October 12-15, 2009.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The assessor will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during and after the assessment. The primary objectives of stakeholder consultation are to solicit comments from interested parties regarding the standards being used; to identify difficult or controversial forest stewardship issues in the region and gain an understanding of how stakeholders believe these issues should be resolved; and to gather information about the performance of the candidate's operation with respect to the standards used in the assessment.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the assessor will meet with TDF managers to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The assessor will produce a confidential draft report within 60 days of completion of the assessment that will be submitted to TDF for review and comment.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from TDF forest managers and in consideration of stakeholder input, SmartWood will reach a certification decision. The SmartWood re-assessment process is expected to be completed by Dec 31, 2009.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on TDF forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to Oct 14, 2009 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by December 1, 2009. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a SmartWood assessor during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Steve Grado the assessor coordinating stakeholder input this certification assessment.

Steve Grado : 707 Shadowood Lane, Starkville MS, 39759, ph (662) 617-3691, fax (662) 325-8726 . [sgrado@hotmail.com](mailto:sgrado@hotmail.com)

3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Steve Grado or Foster Dickard. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the TDF. The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and SmartWood staff. Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access SmartWood's dispute resolution procedures at <http://www.smartwood.org>,

**Contacting SmartWood**

- ◆ Email: [fdickard@ra.org](mailto:fdickard@ra.org) for Foster Dickard
- ◆ Worldwide Website: <http://www.smartwood.org>.
- ◆ Telephone: 601-898-9801
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- ◆ Mail address: 112 Overlook Pointe Circle, Ridgeland MS, 39157